

## Day and Night

### RADIO AND TELEVISION

By DWIGHT NEWTON

**CONFESSIONS OF A HAM:** "I can honestly boast," said John Nesbitt, "that only 50 per cent of our shows are lousy."

Since the lousy batting average for most teleseries is 80 per cent, Honest John may have a hit with his new "Telephone Time: Stories of John Nesbitt" (KPX, Sundays, 4:30 p. m.).

John's an ex-San Franciscan who struck radio pay dirt with "Headlines of the Past," parlayed it into "Passing Parade," hoarded his loot and bought a big ranch at Big Sur where he runs "many thousands of cattle."

And needs many thousands of dollars to do it. "You lose money farming, beef is down," he complained. "What you need is a cash crop."

He figures the television show will be his "cash crop." That's why he's doing it.

John, his wife Priscilla, and their four children make their permanent home at Carmel, which he loves. But the TV show takes him to Hollywood, which he hates.

I found him by telephone at a Malibu Beach hide-way.

"It's not much," he said. "Every night the place is practically taken away by the tide. I'm putting pontoons on my bed. But this is what I like. After a day's work I have no desire to drive past the Brown Derby and mingle with that crowd."

"Long ago Frank Lloyd Wright told me, 'You should consider your personal life as much as your paycheck.'"

Now that John's on what he calls "a middle age kick," he avoids the socializing of his San Francisco days. He was a handsome, melodramatic character, then. He favored night spots and became a town topic (like Sherwood, today).

Once, with Pat Weaver, now NBC board chairman, he swiped some plumed hats and foils and fought a duel all the way down Geary from Van Ness to Market. John admits he's been a dramatic ham ever since he flunked Berkeley High School classes because he was too busy memorizing Shakespeare.

"And I'm still a sentimental ham about San Francisco," he said. "Priscilla and I call it 'our home town, our capital.'"


I told him I saw his first show, "Golden Junkman," thought it so-so, but didn't review it.

"Good," he said. "The second, 'Man With a Beard,' is much better. It's a sort of prestige thing, an adult kind of show. We went right upstairs without going upstage." (Huh?)

During his years here, John practically made a down payment on his Big Sur ranch just telling radio stories about Emperor Norton, and by insisting the Bay Bridge be called The Emperor's Bridge in his memory.

"Norton was the first to suggest the bridge and the old boy doped it out pretty damn well. I've always campaigned to have it re-named The Emperor's Bridge. I'll never give up."

Program No. 8 in his teleseries will be about Emperor Norton. Of course you know what campaigner Nesbitt is calling it: "The Emperor's Bridge."



**JOHN NESBITT**  
— 50 Per Cent Lousy

### TV-Radio Highlights

(For program information see log)

TV

7:00 p. m. (5) — \$64,000 Question.

7:30 p. m. (7) — Warner Bros. Presents: "Siren Song" (Casablanca series).

8:00 p. m. (4)—Dinah Shore and Dean Martin.

8:00 p. m. (5) — Phil Silvers Show.

8:30 p. m. (5) — Navy Log: "The First Shot."

8:30 p. m. (7)—Wyatt Earp.

8:00 p. m. (4)—Jane Wyman Theater: "This Land is Mine."

9:30 p. m. (4)—Playwrights '56: "You and Me—and the Gatepost."

9:30 p. m. (5)—Red Skelton.

9:30 p. m. (7) — Cavalcade Theater: "Young Andy Jackson."

10:00 p. m. (7)—Confidential File: "Alcoholics."

RADIO

7:00 p. m.—KFBK, Treasury Agent: "The Case of the Reverse Robberies."

8:30 p. m.—KCBS, Suspense.

### Manila Mail

#### Tampering Told

The Philippine postal service disclosed yesterday that mail bound for Manila from San Francisco by ship has been pilfered several times lately, but a Federal source here minimized the situation.

Felipe Cuaderno, director of posts for the Philippines, said the pilfering occurred during the last six months. The most recent instance was aboard the freighter Steel Voyager, when ten bags of mail were opened. An investigation indicated that only one parcel was missing. It contained candy bars.

Clipped By:



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